

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

I feel an incredible sense of gratitude and appreciation as I reflect on another year as principal at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The school community has, once again, done a fantastic job in working together this year. For me, the celebrations and highlights have been so many and equally varied, and I am so grateful that I have been given this opportunity to lead this wonderful school community.

I acknowledge and thank the fabulous St Thomas More staff who continually strive to partner with families to provide individual care, along with stimulating and challenging learning opportunities for our students. I have been truly blessed to be working alongside such enthusiastic, passionate and professional colleagues.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Fr. Ed Moloney and our School Advisory Council members who have demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of excellence at St Thomas More and have worked in partnership to continue to build a strong, faith filled, Catholic community. The support, advocacy and wisdom of our School Advisory Council members has been a real asset to our school and has made my job as principal a pleasure.

I take this opportunity to thank our Year Six students for their many contributions to our school community throughout their primary school journey. I wish them all the best for future success as they move on to their respective secondary schools and hope that their memories of their time spent at St Thomas More will remain special, vivid and cherished for many years to come.

I have been truly grateful for the dedication and commitment of the parents at St Thomas More this year. The positive partnerships between families and the school have had a major impact on your child's learning and success.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of our students and all that they have achieved this year. It has been a privilege to be entrusted with their care and education and I genuinely delight in watching each one of them live, learn and thrive, not only academically, but also in faith, love and resilience.



Joy to the world



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT SCHOOL

Our school Christmas Carols event is on tomorrow night, **Thursday 12th December**, starting at 5pm. This will take place on the school oval and all students will be involved in performing various Christmas carols. This is a free event where families are invited to bring along their picnic dinner and a rug or chairs to sit on.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents and Friends are currently conducting our annual *Christmas Raffle*. Tickets can now be purchased online through <https://www.raffleink.com.au/stmchristmas2024> The raffle will be drawn during the school Christmas Carols on Thursday evening.



DONATIONS

The school has been overwhelmed with the generosity shown by families for the Christmas food appeal for St Vincent de Paul this year. Donations of non-perishable grocery items are still being accepted up until **Friday 13th December**.



SCHOOL UNIFORM IN 2025

The phasing out of the former school uniform concludes at the end of this year (after a 2-year phase out program). To begin 2025 all students are required to wear the new uniform. The new uniforms are stocked exclusively by Crocker's in Ballarat (4 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat).



THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Next **Monday 16th December** we will be holding our Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation at 9.15am at St Thomas More school, to which all families are most welcome to attend. At this mass we will acknowledge our Year 6 graduating students and departing staff while sharing a final celebration as a school community for 2024. The Year 6 parents have organised a special Year 6 Graduation Dinner to be held at the Ballarat Golf Club later that day. Further details about the dinner have been provided to Year 6 families from the Year 6 Parent Group who are organising this event.

FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2024

This year the final day for students will be **Wednesday 18th December**. We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground for the students, staff and families. Event details and permission forms have been sent to families via PAM. Students will walk from school, leaving at 10am and arriving at Victoria Park at approximately 10.30am. Students will have playtime at Victoria Park for approximately 2 and half hours. Students will commence walking back to school at 1pm, unless collected earlier by parents, and will arrive back at school by 1.45pm to conclude the school year. Please note that dismissal will be at 1:45pm.

School TV: Week 10, 2024

Special Report: Surviving Christmas

'As families around the world prepare to celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes, singing carols, buying gifts and planning feasts, often the true meaning of Christmas can be lost due the commercial exploitation of this time of year. Many people see it as a joyous occasion to spend with family and friends, but for others it is viewed as a stressful and challenging time attributed by a combination of things such as financial pressures, relationship issues, and quite often, loneliness.

During the Christmas period, there is a huge increase in the number of calls to support organisations. Many of these callers are considered to be in a high-risk category and sadly, this is the ugly side to Christmas. Should you, or a loved one, ever feel that the pressure of Christmas becomes too much, it is important to seek help. Reach out to a trusted friend, talk to your doctor or counsellor, or phone one of the many support organisations available to you 24/7.' (School TV, 2024)



2025 Term 1 Calendar is attached – please below.

As this is the final newsletter for 2024, may God bless you all and keep you safe this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you next year, with **Wednesday 29th January 2025** being the first day for students.

Simon Duffy

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 Dec	16 th <i>Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:15am</i> <i>Going-up Session for 2025</i> <i>STUDENT REPORTS AVAILABLE from 2:00pm</i> <i>Yr. 6 Graduation dinner 6:00 – 9:30pm</i>	17	18 <i>Student's last day</i> <i>Final fun day activity at Victoria Park 10:30am - 1pm</i> <i>Final dismissal 1.45pm</i>	19 <i>School holidays</i>	20 <i>School holidays</i>

Term 1 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan/Feb	27 <i>Australia Day – Public Holiday</i>	28 <i>Staff resume for 2025</i> <i>Student free day</i>	29 <i>Students resume school</i> <i>Parent Morning Tea 8.45am- 9.15am</i>	30 <i>Foundation Parent Literacy Learning sessions 9-10.30am repeated 6-7 pm</i>	31
2 Feb	3	4	5 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	6	7 <i>Opening Year School Mass 9.15 am</i>
3 Feb	10 <i>Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm</i>	11 <i>Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm</i>	12 <i>School Closure Day - Staff professional development Pupil-free day</i>	13	14 <i>School Athletics Day For Years 3-6 students held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve</i>
4 Feb	17	18	19 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	20	21
5 March	24 <i>School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm</i>	25	26 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	27	28
6 March	3	4 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	6	7
7 March	10 <i>Public Holiday - Labour Day</i>	11	12 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	13 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	14 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>
8 March	17 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	18 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	19	20	21 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>
9 March/April	24 <i>Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 1)</i>	25	26	27 <i>School Photos</i>	28 <i>Junior School Athletics Carnival for Years F- 2 students to be held at school</i>
10	31 <i>Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 2)</i>	1	2	3	4 <i>Last day of Term 1 1.45pm dismissal</i>

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School ~ Cnr Cuthberts Rd & Elaine Ave, Alfredton 3350.

P: 03 5334 2244 E: admin@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au I: www.stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au ABN: 77 131 997 830

When is it...

**THURSDAY 12TH
DECEMBER**

Elaine Avenue gates will be opened at 5:00pm (entry is FREE!!)



Santa will be joining us from 5:00pm until 5:45pm

Concert will run from 5:45 to 7:15pm (approximately)

What to bring...

BYO...chairs or rugs to be set up on the oval. (Those who bring chairs will be asked to set up behind the families who bring picnic rugs!)



BYO...Picnic Tea! (food, drink and snacks)

Grandparents, friends and family are all invited to join us!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 2024

What to wear...

The students are encouraged to wear
* a **Christmas themed t-shirt or top**...red, white or green, plain or decorated.

***denim bottoms**; jeans, shorts or skirt etc. (school sports shorts will work too!)

*Anything "Christmassy" as long as you can move and groove in it!



What else?

- ☺ Our school's annual Christmas Raffle will be drawn during the evening



- ☺ Each class will be given instruction as to when and where to gather prior to their 'act.'
- ☺ Families are reminded to supervise their children when they are not required on stage!



CONCERT PROGRAM

ACT 1: 5/6 Baker/Larkin

ACT 2: 3/4 Gannon.

ACT 3: 1/2 Turk/Hoff.

ACT 4: Found Ed/Debono

ACT 5: 1/2 Smith

ACT 6: 3/4 Hawkes/Blachon

ACT 7: 5/6 Calleija

ACT 8: Found Cudia

ACT 9: 1/2 Harris

ACT 10: 5/6 Gittings

ACT 11: Found Keighrey

ACT 12: 1/2 Woodhart

ACT 13: 1/2 Stacey

ACT 14: 3/4 Calleija

ACT 15: 3/4 Hare

ACT 16: 5/6 Dodd

ACT 17: 5/6 Davis

ACT 18: 3/4 Edwards.

P AND F CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW

ACT 19: 3/4 Singing Group

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



RECONCILIATION - Term 1 Grade 4 & Above

Parent Information Session @ STM - Tuesday, 18th February 9am
Parent Information Session @ St Patrick's Cathedral - Thursday, 20th February 5.30pm
Presentation of Candidates at Masses - St Patrick's Cathedral
Saturday, 1st March 5.30pm / Sunday, 2nd March 10.30am and 5.00pm
Saturday, 15th March 5.30pm / Sunday, 16th March 10.30am and 5.00pm
Saturday, 22nd March 5.30pm / Sunday, 23rd March 10.30am and 5.00pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation - St Patrick's Cathedral
Tuesday, 1st April @ 5.30pm - St Patrick's and Siena Co-ordinating
Wednesday, 2nd April @ 5.30pm - St Thomas More Co-ordinating

EUCCHARIST - Term 2 Grade 4 & Above



Parent Information Session @ STM - Tuesday, 29th April 9am
Parent Information Session @ St Patrick's Cathedral - Thursday, 1st May 5.30pm
Presentation of Candidates at Masses - St Patrick's Cathedral
Commitment Weekend - Saturday, 3rd May, 5.30pm / Sunday, 4th May 10.30am and 5.00pm
Prayer Weekend - Saturday, 10th May 5.30pm / Sunday, 11th May 10.30am and 5.00pm
Presentation Weekend - Saturday, 17th May 5.30pm / Sunday, 18th May 10.30am and 5.00pm
Sacrament of First Communion Celebrations - St Patrick's Cathedral
Saturday, 24th May 5.30pm / Sunday, 25th May 10.30am and 5.00pm
Saturday, 31st May 5.30pm (St Thomas More Co-ordinating) / Sunday, 1st June 10.30am and 5.00pm
Saturday, 14th June 5.30pm / Sunday, 15th June 10.30am and 5.00pm



CONFIRMATION - Term 3 Grade 3 & Above

Parent Information Session @ STM - Tuesday, 22nd July 9am
Parent Information Session @ St Patrick's Cathedral - Thursday, 24th July 5.30pm
Presentation of Candidates at Masses - St Patrick's Cathedral
Commitment Weekend - Saturday, 26th July, 5.30pm / Sunday, 27th July 10.30am and 5.00pm
Prayer Weekend - Saturday, 2nd August 5.30pm / Sunday, 3rd August 10.30am and 5.00pm
Presentation Weekend - Saturday, 9th August 5.30pm / Sunday, 10th August 10.30am and 5.00pm
Sacrament of Confirmation Celebrations - St Patrick's Cathedral
Saturday, 16th August 5.30pm (St Thomas More Co-ordinating) / Sunday, 17th August 10.30am and 5.00pm
Saturday, 23rd August 5.30pm / Sunday, 24th August 10.30am and 5.00pm

Please contact St Patrick's Cathedral Office for further information: 03 53312933



Interested in helping shape
the direction and development
of Catholic education in
the diocese?

Join a DOBCEL
Board Consultative
Committee



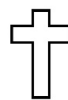
The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) is a company limited by guarantee, created to govern 57 schools across the Diocese. DOBCEL, alongside its operational arm, Catholic Education Ballarat (CEB), work together to support the leadership of all Catholic Primary and Secondary schools.

The DOBCEL Board of Directors is currently seeking applications from individuals interested in joining one of six Consultative Committees:

- Catholic Faith Community & Culture
- Children & Young People Safeguarding & Wellbeing
- Family & Community Engagement
- Learning & Teaching
- Assurance & Risk
- Finance

As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Provide oversight and advice to the Board
- Collaborate with diverse stakeholders
- Enhance your professional skills
- Shape educational outcomes



Click [HERE](#)
and make a
difference today

(Applications Close Sunday 19 January 2025)

Committees typically meet once per term (in-person or virtually) for 90-120 minutes.

For more information, please visit the [DOBCEL website](#) to access the Terms of Reference for each Committee.



For additional information, please contact us
execassistant@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Our vision is *"as partners in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, to pursue fullness of life for all"*



Queries: Coach Sean
0411 602 204



Summer

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

DECEMBER

MON 16th - THUR 24th

JANUARY

THUR 2nd - FRI 31st

All kids welcome! Over these Summer Holidays Kelly Sports will be running our Summer Holiday Program, tons of fun to be had with all kinds of sports, fun activities, challenge days, and more!



Water gun / Water balloon fights to keep cool while having fun!

Kids need to bring along a big packed lunch & large refillable drink bottle. Dress in comfortable sports clothing!



Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat
8am - 5pm Weekdays
Kinder - Grade 6
Enroll online

www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat